

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An optical pickup unit, comprising:

at least one light source;

5 an optical device for focusing light emitted from a corresponding light source on an information recording medium;

one or more drive devices for driving the optical device to vary position of the optical device relative to the information recording medium;

a detector for detecting light reflected from the information recording medium;

10 and

a memory device for storing optical pickup information of the optical pickup unit therein.

2. The optical pickup unit according to Claim 1, wherein the optical pickup information includes at least one of light emission characteristics of the light source, driving characteristics of the drive devices, production management information of the optical pickup unit, driving characteristics of the drive devices containing characteristics of a reproduction-only information recording medium, and driving characteristics of the drive devices containing characteristics of a recordable information recording medium.

3. An information recording and reproducing apparatus for performing at least one of functions of reproducing information recorded on an information recording medium and recording information thereon, comprising:

the optical pickup unit of Claim 2;

one or more detecting units for detecting optical pickup information of the optical pickup unit;

25 at least one of a writing unit and an information reading unit, the writing unit writing the optical pickup information detected by the detecting units in the memory device installed in the optical pickup unit, and the information reading unit reading the optical pickup information written in the memory device installed in the optical pickup unit,

at least one signal processing unit for executing predetermined processing for signals input/output to/from the optical pickup unit; and

one or more adjusting units for adjusting parameters for the processing executed by the signal processing unit on the basis of the optical pickup information read by the
5 information reading unit.

4. The information recording and reproducing apparatus according to Claim 3, wherein the signal processing unit comprises:

one or more drive control units for controlling the drive devices on the basis of a detection signal of the detector installed in the optical pickup unit as one processing; and

10 an intensity adjusting unit for adjusting intensity of light emitted from the light source installed in the optical pickup unit as another processing.

5. The information recording and reproducing apparatus according to Claim 4, wherein the optical pickup information includes at least one of light emission characteristics of the light source, driving characteristics of the drive devices, production
15 management information of the optical pickup unit, driving characteristics of the drive devices containing characteristics of a reproduction-only information recording medium, and driving characteristics of the drive devices containing characteristics of a recordable information recording medium.

6. An information recording and reproducing apparatus for performing at
20 least one of functions of reproducing information recorded on an information recording medium and recording information thereon, comprising:

the optical pickup unit of Claim 2;

one or more detecting units for detecting optical pickup information of the optical pickup unit;

25 at least one of a writing unit and an information reading unit, the writing unit writing the optical pickup information detected by the detecting units in the memory device installed in the optical pickup unit, and the information reading unit reading the optical pickup information written in the memory device installed in the optical pickup unit,

at least one signal processing unit for executing predetermined processing for signals input/output to/from the optical pickup unit; and

one or more adjusting units for adjusting parameters for the processing executed by the signal processing unit on the basis of the optical pickup information read by the
5 information reading unit.

7. The information recording and reproducing apparatus according to Claim 6, wherein the signal processing unit comprises:

one or more drive control units for controlling the drive devices on the basis of a detection signal of the detector installed in the optical pickup unit as one processing; and

10 an intensity adjusting unit for adjusting intensity of light emitted from the light source installed in the optical pickup unit as another processing.

8. The information recording and reproducing apparatus according to Claim 7, wherein the optical pickup information includes at least one of light emission characteristics of the light source, driving characteristics of the drive devices, production
15 management information of the optical pickup unit, driving characteristics of the drive devices containing characteristics of a reproduction-only information recording medium, and driving characteristics of the drive devices containing characteristics of a recordable information recording medium.